

REMARKS

The specification has been objected to due to minor informalities. The specification has been amended to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sekino, Japanese Patent No. 10337679. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekino '679 as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Hollinger, U.S. Design Patent No. D417,130, Kitamura, Japanese Patent No. 07251383, Klotz, U.S. Patent No. 5,251,351, Murakami, Japanese Patent No. 11010556, Werner et al, European Patent No. 845333, or Yamabe, U.S. Patent No. 5,952,916. Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekino '679, as applied to claims 1-4 above, in view of Kitamura, Japanese Patent No. 09085646.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7 and 9 have been objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Please note that the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions and thus the Applicant believes that the claims are now patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1-3, 5 and 7-11 are in proper form and are considered to be patently distinguishable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arlene J. Powers", is written over a horizontal line.

Arlene J. Powers
Registration No. 35,985
Gauthier & Connors LLP
225 Franklin Street, Suite 3300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Telephone: (617) 426-9180
Extension 110